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48. (Amended) A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein by preventing chemical modification of SH groups on the protein during a period of greater than 24 hours.

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78. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein is delayed for a period of from greater than 24 hours to 2 months
79. (New) A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein wherein the effective concentration does not decrease by more than about 7%, and wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of from about 100 mM to the aqueous solution.
80. (New) The process as claimed in claim 79, wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of greater than 100 mM to the aqueous solution.
81. (New) The process as claimed in claim 79, wherein the concentration of cysteine in the aqueous protein solution is in the range from about 100 mM to about 500 mM.

82. (New) A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein during a period of greater than 24 hours, wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of from about 100 mM to the aqueous solution.
83. (New) The process as claimed in claim 82, wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of greater than 100 mM to the aqueous solution.
84. (New) The process as claimed in claim 82, wherein the concentration of cysteine in the aqueous protein solution is in the range from about 100 mM to about 500 mM.

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 23-84 are pending in this application upon entry of the present amendments. Applicants thank the Office for entering the amendments of claims 47 and 77, and for withdrawing the previous rejections.

Claims 23 and 48 are amended to recite that the amount of cysteine added to the claimed solution is "effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein by preventing chemical modification of SH groups on the protein." This amendment is supported by the application as a whole, *inter alia*, at page 2, lines 24-25, and page 3, lines 25-31, and in Example 1, at pages 8-10, which